



# Proposed South Mountain Freeway (Loop 202) Study Update

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# Maricopa County Regional Transportation Plan (RTP)

- In 2003, Maricopa Association of Governments (MAG) approved \$15.8 billion Regional Transportation Plan
- In 2004, voters approved Proposition 400
  - Provided funding needed to implement the RTP
  - Extension of 1985 voter-approved plan



# What is the Regional Transportation Plan (RTP)

- Partnership between ADOT, MAG, local cities, Valley Metro and Valley Metro Rail to:
  - Manage regional transportation programs
  - Coordinate project implementation
  - Develop finance strategies
  - Foster communication and public involvement
  - Facilitate regional collaboration

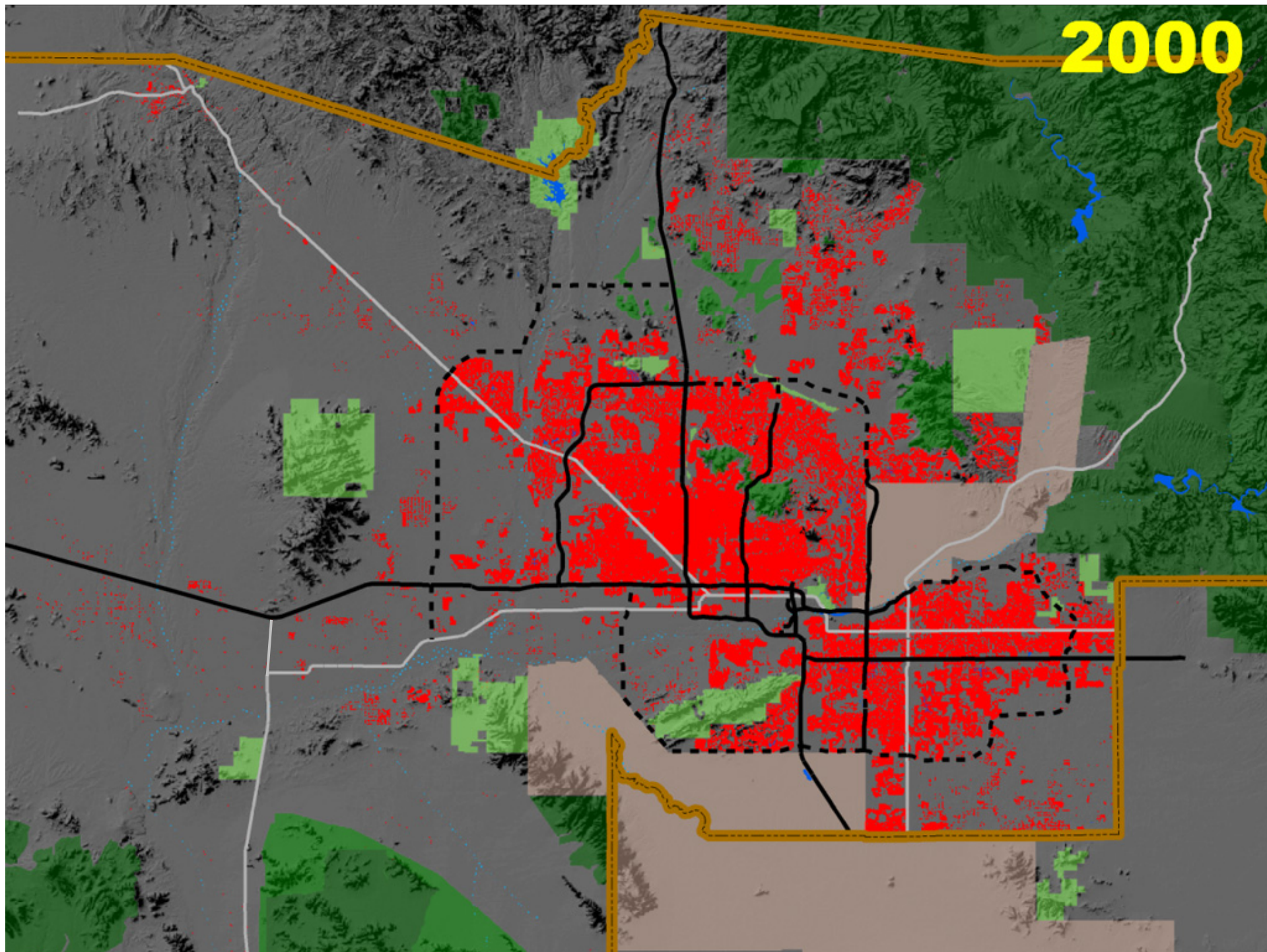


# Why was a Regional Transportation Plan Needed?

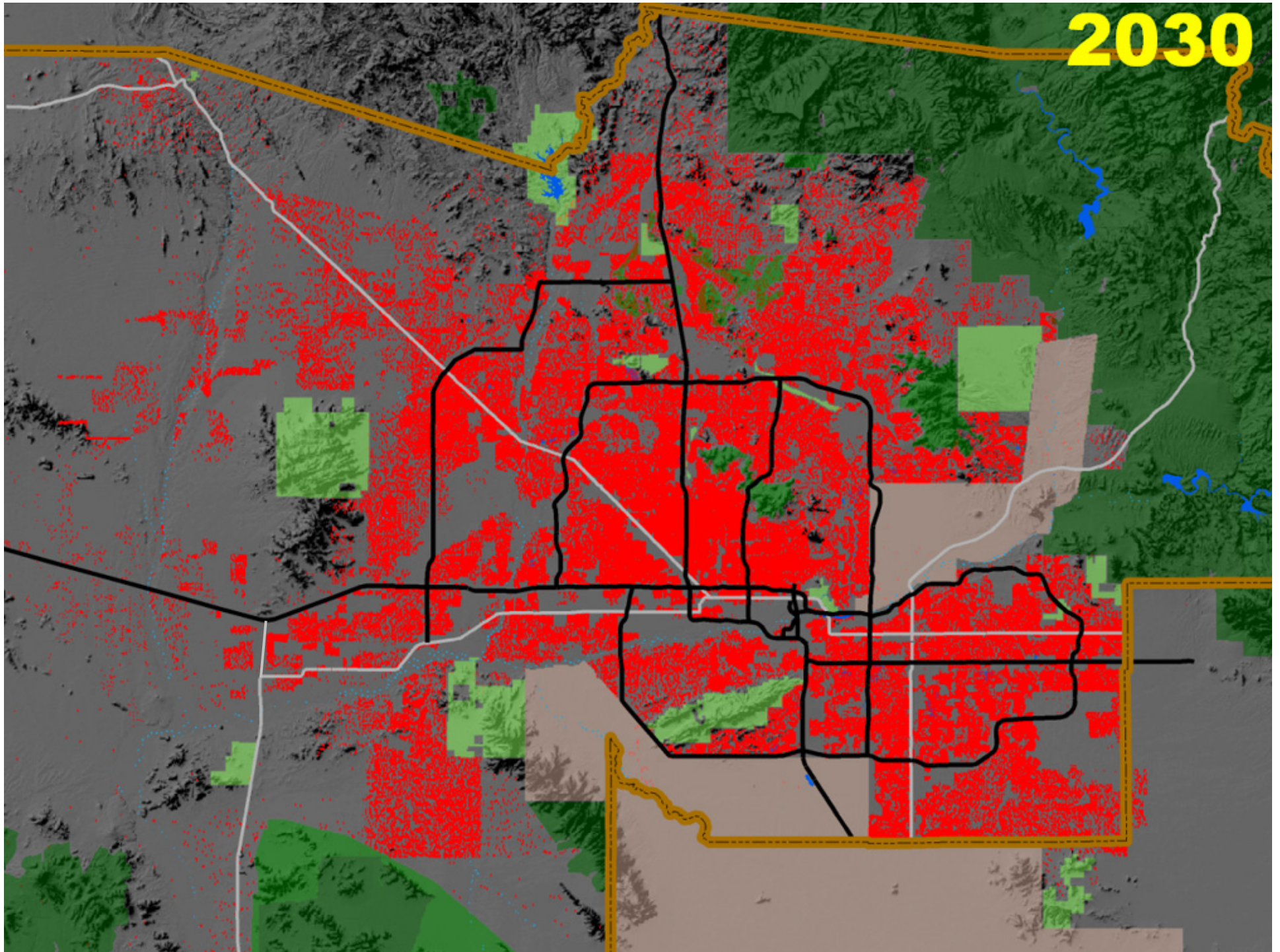
- Efficiently pool and prioritize regional resources
- Get buy-in from all communities and agencies for a balanced program
- Meet ever-increasing mobility needs of the community resulting from explosive growth



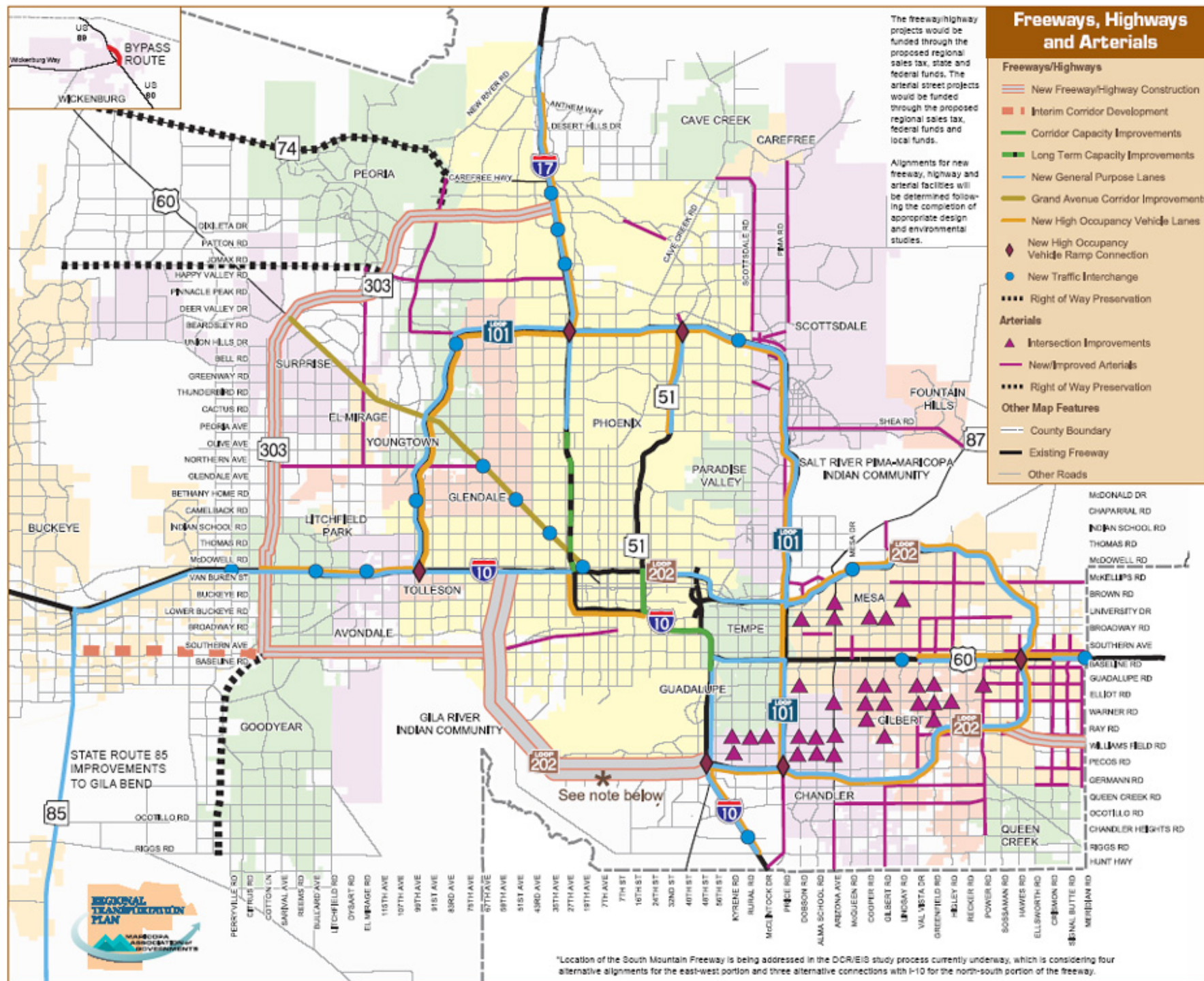












# MAG Role: Create the Plan

- Develop Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) and conduct regional transportation planning
- Set priorities for scheduling and funding
- Approve accelerations and cost changes to RTP
- Approve air quality analysis on all regional transportation projects





# ADOT Role: Deliver the Plan

- Implement Regional Transportation Plan
- Conduct studies to identify/evaluate alternatives
- Coordinate environmental document review
- Acquire rights-of-way
- Design and construct freeways
- Maintain freeways



# FHWA Role: Oversight

- Serve as lead federal agency
- Participate in study process
- Provide document review and approval
- Provide funding





# ADOT Public Involvement

- Commitment to ongoing public involvement
- Partnering with community members, businesses, public officials
- Involving the public during the early planning stages
- Continuing outreach through design and construction



# Project History

## Purpose and Need

### Regional Population

3.8 million in 2005

6.24 million in 2030

### Travel Demand

135% increase in the  
same time period

- South Mountain Freeway – 189,000 vehicles per day in 2030
- Provides movement between the southeast and southwest portions of the Valley





# Project History

## Purpose and Need

- South Mountain Freeway optimizes regional freeway system in 2030:
  - Improved travel times
  - Less freeway and arterial street congestion
- Travel time savings with South Mountain Freeway:
  - Regionally: \$400 million/year



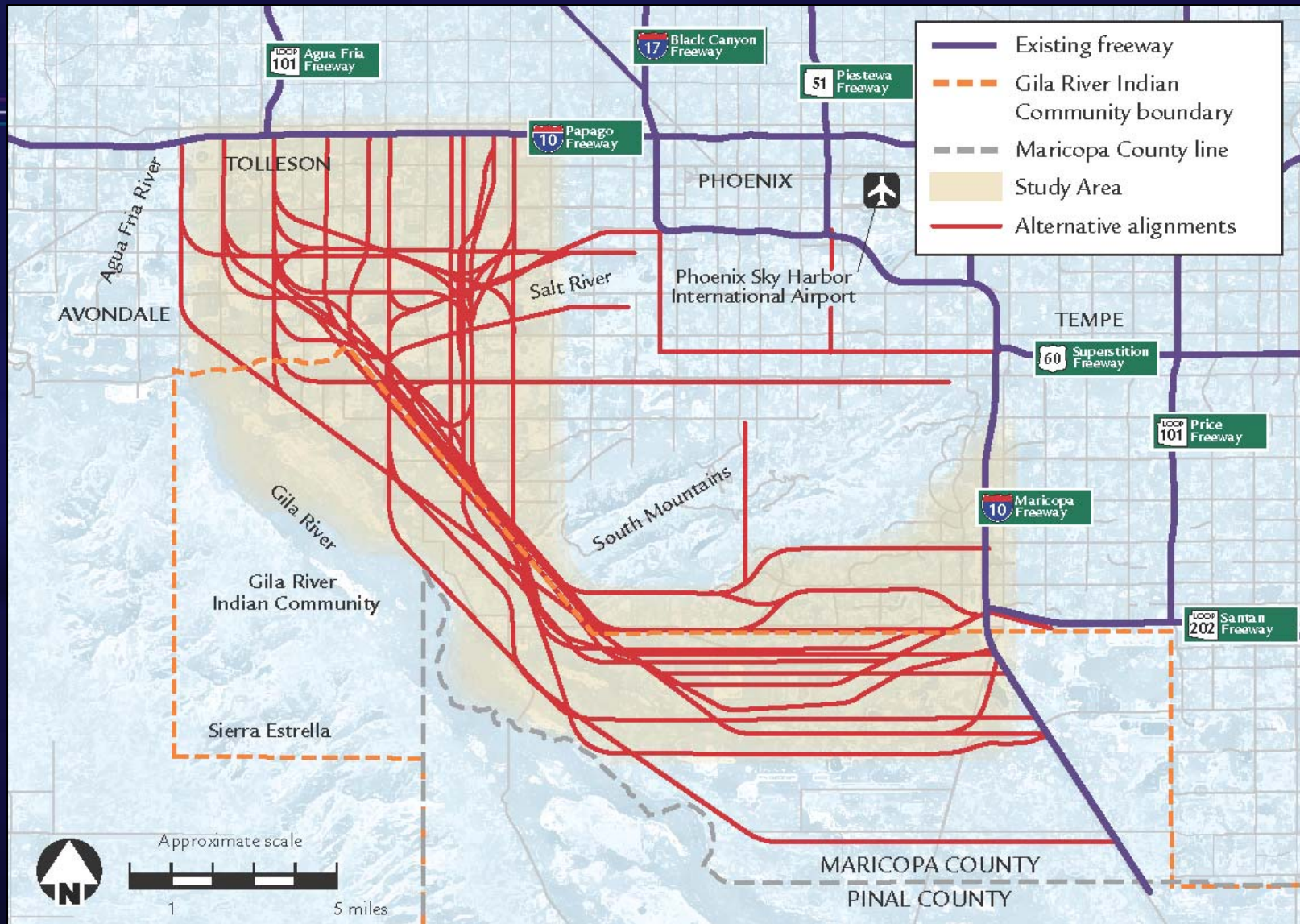
# What ADOT Studies

- Air Quality
- Cultural Sites
- Environmental Justice
- Threatened & Endangered Species
- Potential Hazardous Waste Sites
- Residential & Business Displacements
- Utilities
- Local Land Use Plans
- Agricultural Lands
- Traffic Operations & Highway Design Standards
- Cost
- Noise
- Public & Jurisdictional Acceptability
- Historic/Public Park Land [Section 4(f)]

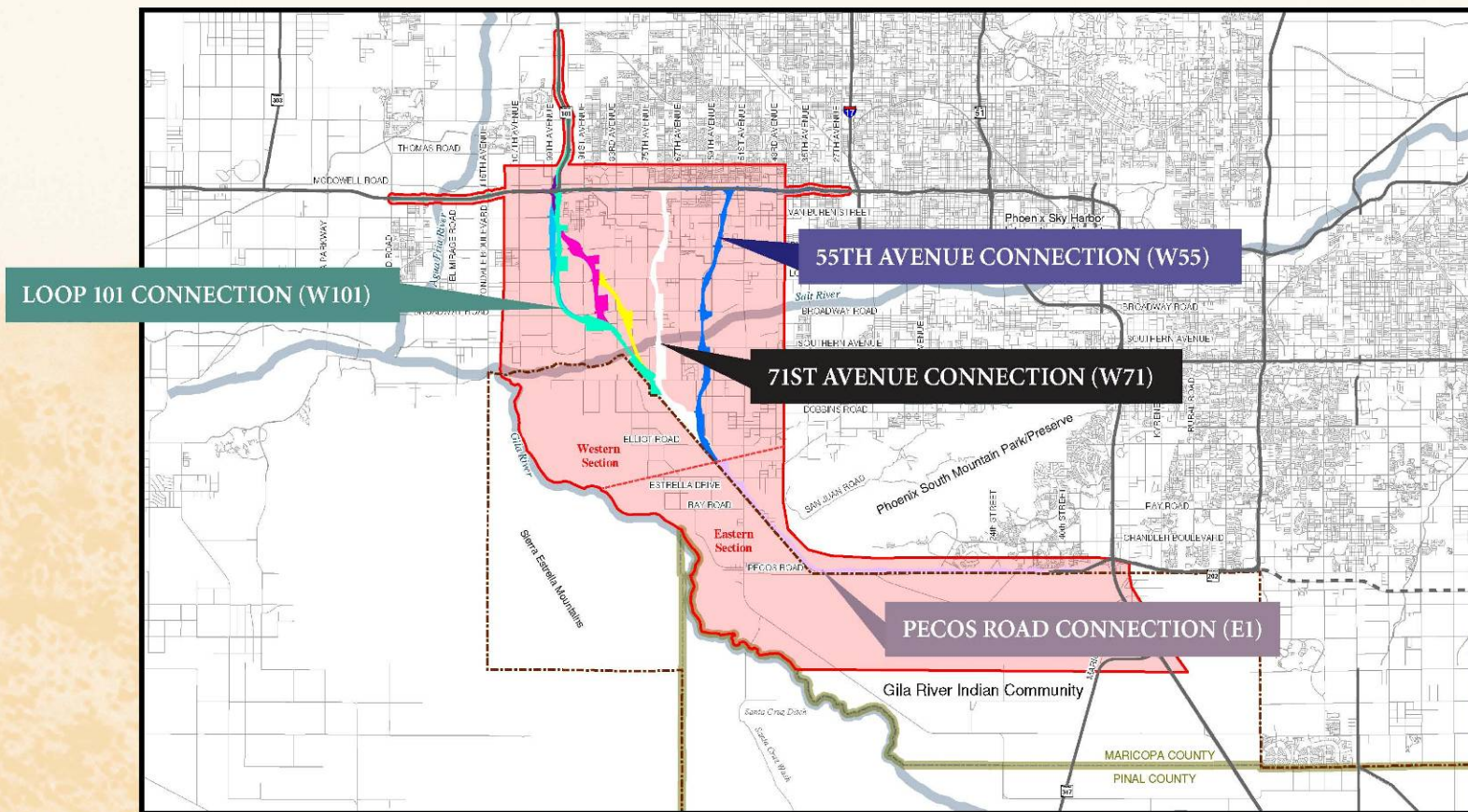




# Initial Alternatives



# Alternatives Studied in Detailed





# Evaluating Alternatives

- 30+ alternatives
- Alternatives refined to those shown
- Public and agency suggestions
  - Over 2100 comments received from November 2005 public meetings
  - Local government resolutions
  - CAT recommendation for W101 Alternative
- ADOT recommendation of 55<sup>th</sup> Avenue Alternative as Western Section “preliminary preferred alternative”
- Alternatives continue to be studied in detail in technical reports and Draft EIS



# Project Process – What's Next

## DECISION-MAKING PROCESS

Draft  
Environmental  
Impact  
Statement

Public review  
of Draft  
Environmental  
Impact  
Statement (DEIS)

ADOT/FHWA  
decision on  
No Action/  
Action Alternative

Final  
Environmental  
Impact  
Statement (FEIS)  
and  
Record of  
Decision

### PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT PROCESS

Citizens Advisory Team Meetings  
Community Office Hours  
Community Events/Meetings  
Public Hearings

*Public Comment Throughout Process*



# Citizens Advisory Team

- Reconvenes in March 2007
- CAT will discuss Eastern Section and Build/No-Build Alternative
- Meets before and after public hearings
- CAT members will be encouraged to attend community events





# Community Events/Meetings

- ADOT will attend community meetings and events prior to the public hearings
- Help answer questions regarding the Draft Environmental Impact Statement process



# Community Office Hours

Study Team representatives will be available during open office hours to answer questions and accept comments

- Located at various locations in the study area – announced through newspaper ads/fliers, project Web site



# Public Hearings

Public hearings will be held during the public review of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement

- Two hearings – one in western and one in eastern sections of the Study Area
- Public will be able to submit formal comments, which will be included in the project record





# Project Contact Info

Project Web site:

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**Thank You**